

## Message Text

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ORIGIN L-03

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H-01 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 JUSE-00  
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EUR- MR. VINE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 171318

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, EINV, ECOSOC, UN

SUBJECT: ILLICIT PAYMENTS AGREEMENT

REFS: (A) STATE 168316; (B) STATE 168317

1. AS REPORTED (REF A) THE WORKING GROUP ON CORRUPT PRACTICES MADE CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS AT ITS FINAL SESSION. AFTER INTENSIVE NEGOTIAIONS THE MAIN POINTS AGREED BY OECD DELS IN PARIS LAST MONTH WERE ACCEPTED BY THE WORKING GROUP. THE FRENCH DEL GENERALLY STOOD BY THE UNDERSTANDINGS REACHED IN PARIS AND CONTRIBUTED TO A POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE.

2. IT IS NOW IMPORTANT TO OBTAIN FRENCH SUPPORT FOR ECOSOC DECISION TO SCHEDULE A DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE AND TO ESTABLISH A PREPARATORY COMMITTEE. WE ARE HOPEFUL THE CONFERENCE WILL BE SET FOR THE FALL OF 1979 BUT COULD AGREE  
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ON THE FIRST HALF OF 1980. AS FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE, THE ONLY OECD COUNTRIES OPPOSED TO MOVING FORWARD AT THIS TIME ARE THE U.K. AND FRG. (THE U.K. IS RECONSIDERING ITS POSITION.) HOWEVER, WE UNDERSTAND THAT FRENCH DEL EX-PRESSED SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT SETTING A DATE FOR THE CONFERENCE IN THE EC CAUCUSES IN NEW YORK. USDEL (FELDMAN) TOOK PAINS TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE WITH FRENCH DEL (DE

GOUTTES) BEFORE WORKING GROUP CONSIDERED ITS RECOMMENDATION TO ECOSOC. USDEL EMPHASIZED THAT AGREEMENT ENDORSED BY WORKING GROUP IS BASICALLY THE FRENCH DRAFT WITH A FEW MODIFICATIONS, AND THAT THE U.S. WAS SUPPORTING FRANCE IN THE WORKING GROUP ON THE ONLY TWO ISSUES THAT DE LACHARRIERE HAD AGREED WERE "DU FOND" BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND FRANCE, I.E. EXTRADITION AND EXCLUSION OF FOREIGN SUBSIDIARIES FROM RECORD-KEEPING. THEREFORE, FRANCE SHOULD BE READY TO SUPPORT SCHEDULING A CONFERENCE. DE GOUTTES INDICATED THAT HE WOULD SEEK INSTRUCTIONS FROM DE LACHARRIERE. WHEN WORKING GROUP TOOK UP THE RECOMMENDATION TO ECOSOC FRANCE DID NOT COMMENT ON ORIGINAL U.S. PROPOSAL BUT WARMLY ENDORSED THE CHAIRMAN'S COMPROMISE WHICH WAS SATISFACTORY TO THE U.S. AND WAS ULTIMATELY ACCEPTED BY THE WORKING GROUP.

3. IN LIGHT OF THIS BACKGROUND, WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO CONTACT DE LACHARRIERE, UNLESS YOU SEE OBJECTIONS, TO SEEK FRENCH SUPPORT FOR THE U.S. DRAFT RESOLUTION (REF B). YOU MAY EXPRESS OUR SATISFACTION AT THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN THE WORKING GROUP AND OUR APPRECIATION OF FRANCE'S CONTRIBUTION TO THIS EFFORT. YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT THE G-77 IS NOW PARTICIPATING ACTIVELY AND CONSTRUCTIVELY IN THE WORK AND APPEARS TO HAVE ACCEPTED THE BASIC LINES OF AGREEMENT WHICH EMERGED IN THE OECD CONSULTATIONS IN PARIS LAST MONTH. IF DE LACHARRIERE IS CONCERNED ABOUT CONFIDENTIAL

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THE DATE YOU MAY INDICATE THAT THE U.S. COULD AGREE TO A CONFERENCE IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1980 BUT THAT WE BELIEVE A FIRM DATE IS NECESSARY TO ENCOURAGE THOSE GOVERNMENTS HOLDING BACK TO TAKE A DECISION AND TO ENSURE SERIOUS ATTENTION TO THE WORK. IF HE INQUIRES ABOUT THE AFRICAN ISSUE, YOU SHOULD SAY WE WERE ENCOURAGED THAT THE G-77 DID NOT EVEN PRESS FOR DISCUSSION OF THESE TEXTS AND MERELY MADE STATEMENTS FOR THE RECORD OF THE IMPORTANCE THEY ATTACH TO THEM. OBVIOUSLY, WE COULD HAVE TROUBLE DOWN THE ROAD ON THIS ISSUE, BUT WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THERE WILL BE REAL PROGRESS IN BOTH NAMIBIA AND ZIMBABWE IN THE COMING MONTHS. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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